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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/110 and 53/114 of 9 December 1999, entitled "Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders" and "Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity", respectively.

2. The report provides an overview of progress made in implementing resolutions 53/110 and 53/114 and should be read in conjunction with the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (E/CN.15/1999/6 and Corr.1) and the report of the Executive Director on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (E/CN.15/1999/2), both submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session. The present report updates the information contained in those two reports. Two other relevant reports will also be before the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, on the elimination of violence against women (A/54/69–E/1999/8) and on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

II. The reform process

3. The report covers the second year of implementation of the Secretary-General's reform measures and the second year of operation of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. Guided by the reform proposals, the international community's changing requirements and the recommendations of the Office for Internal Oversight Services, the Centre completed a major review and reorientation of its work methods and structure. It is now fully engaged in implementing its new action-oriented and streamlined methods of work in pursuit of ambitious but realistic goals in support of the most pressing priorities of Member States. Coordinated provision of technical expertise and effective operational assistance in its mandated areas of activity has now been firmly established as the Centre's core functional objective.

4. This new approach is manifested in the Centre's recently launched global programmes against transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption. As an integral component of those efforts, active attention continues to be paid to crime prevention and the building up and reorientation of criminal justice systems, as relevant, based upon the standards and norms laid down under the aegis of the United Nations. Attention is also being given to integrating a gender perspective in such activities and to reinforcing the role of the criminal justice system in eliminating gender-based discrimination and violence against women. Increased efficiency is also being achieved in fulfilling the Centre's mandates in support of intergovernmental processes, for example, in servicing the sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the drafting of a convention against transnational organized crime and the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Significant efforts have been made to expand the electronic provision of documentation through the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network and the Internet site of the Centre (http://www.ifs.univie.ac.at/~uncjin/uncjin.html).

5. Closer operational synergy between the Centre and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme is being achieved. This has been greatly enhanced through the common management of both entities under the leadership of the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the internal coordination structures that have been put in place, including the regular meetings of the Executive Director with his senior managers and the senior staff of the Office.

III. Eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

6. The eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in Vienna from 27 April to 6 May 1999. The prominent theme for the session was crime prevention. At the session, the Commission recommended the adoption of four draft resolutions by the General Assembly and six draft resolutions and three draft decisions by the Economic and Social Council. The report of the session[1] contains the text of those drafts and details of the deliberations of the Commission, together with information on specific action taken by the Commission on the topics covered.

7. The proceedings and outcome of the session reflected a further consolidation of the streamlined process of work of the Commission, achieved through the vigorous pursuit of strategic management of its work and effective coordination with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. Further reduction in the

number and length of reports submitted to the session was also achieved and in the number of requests for reports and other mandates that would emanate from the recommendations of the Commission at the session.

IV. Convention against transnational organized crime

8. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/111 and 53/114 of 9 December 1998, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime formally began its work in early 1999, with the objective of completing its task by the year 2000. It has made significant progress in drafting the convention and the three additional international legal instruments against illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition; illegal transporting of and trafficking in migrants; and trafficking in human beings, especially women and children.

9. The Ad Hoc Committee held four sessions in 1999 (19–29 January, 8–12 March, 28 April–3 May and 28 June–9 July) and is scheduled to hold two more sessions in 1999 (4–15 October and 6–17 December). Four sessions of two weeks' each duration are planned for 2000.

10. The sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee, attended by a total of 126 States, have been marked by broad support for the draft convention, strong political commitment and the presence of sound technical expertise.

11. At its first session, the Ad Hoc Committee based its work on a document containing a draft of the convention (A/AC.254/4) that reflected the outcome of earlier preparatory meetings and the work of the earlier sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and completed a first reading of articles 1–23. The Ad Hoc Committee also discussed the relationship between the convention and the additional international legal instruments, whose preparation it had been requested to undertake pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/111 and 53/114. Pursuant to those resolutions, the convention was to be a self-sufficient and discrete instrument. The highest priority was to be given to the signature, ratification and entry into force of the convention and every effort was to be made to negotiate a text that would be conducive to meeting that priority. The additional international legal instruments were viewed in principle as optional protocols to the convention, covering areas that required a specificity that the convention could not itself provide.

12. Also at its first session, the Ad Hoc Committee carried out a first reading of the additional international legal instruments on combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition (A/AC.254/4/Add.2) and illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea (A/AC.254/4/Add.1). Two draft versions of the additional international legal instrument against trafficking in women and children (A/AC.254/4/Add.3 and A/AC.254/8) were also introduced.

13. At its second session, the Ad Hoc Committee concluded its discussion of article 1, on the statement of objectives. It also discussed article 2, on scope of application, article 2 *bis*, on use of terms, and article 3, on criminalization. It also completed a first reading of articles 24–30 of the draft convention. The Ad Hoc Committee requested the Secretariat to carry out an analytical study on provisions of national laws relevant to the Convention concerning offences punishable by deprivation of liberty, with an indication of the number of years of imprisonment, based on information to be solicited from Member States. Over 40 States have provided information to the Secretariat to date. The Secretariat will make the study available to the Ad Hoc Committee at its fifth session (4–15 October 1999).

14. At its second session, the Ad Hoc Committee carried out a first reading of articles 1 and 2 of the draft protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in women and children, supplementary to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/AC.254/4/Add.3/Rev.1). During that first reading, there was discussion on whether the protocol would address trafficking in women and children or trafficking in persons. On the recommendation of the Commission at the eighth session, the General Assembly will have before it at its fifty-fourth session draft resolution by which it would decide that the additional international instrument being prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee addressing trafficking in women and children should address trafficking in all persons, but especially women and children, and would request the Ad Hoc Committee to make any corresponding changes to the draft instrument.

15. At its third session, the Ad Hoc Committee discussed articles 4, 4 *bis*, 7 and 8, on money-laundering and confiscation, of the draft convention. It also completed a first reading of the draft text of the international legal instrument against illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. The need for input from experts on the many technical matters covered by the instrument emerged from the discussion and was highlighted. In that connection, the Ad Hoc Committee

explored the most appropriate ways of benefiting from such input while ensuring the integrity of the negotiation process. The Committee was of the view that, bearing in mind the difficulties faced by many developing countries in sending experts from their capitals, States should be encouraged to include in their delegations experts on the various issues covered by the instrument. Those experts could hold informal meetings during future sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee in order to provide technical advice to the Committee to assist it in moving the negotiations forward.

16. At its fourth session, the Ad Hoc Committee discussed articles 4 *ter*, 5, 6, 9 and 14, on corruption, liability of legal persons, prosecution, adjudication and sanctions, jurisdiction and mutual legal assistance. In continuing its second reading of the draft convention, the Ad Hoc Committee sought to reach agreement on a single text that would reflect, to the extent possible, the points of convergence and would form the basis for further drafting.

17. Also at its fourth session, the Ad Hoc Committee carried out a second reading of articles 1–5 of the additional international legal instrument against illegal trafficking in and transporting of migrants, including by sea. The consideration of certain provisions in the draft text gave rise to a general discussion that revolved around the purpose and focus of the instrument. Some delegations expressed concern about the potential unintentional misuse of the protocol, which could result in adversely affecting migrants, and in that context questioned the desirability of the protocol. In that connection, reference was made to the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, as contained in resolutions 53/111 and 53/114. The Chairman reiterated the understanding that, while the protocol was inextricably linked to the convention, its focus was on the prevention and suppression of smuggling of migrants and that special attention should be paid to establishing an abundantly clear distinction between the criminalization of the conduct of traffickers and the protection of victims of that activity. The Ad Hoc Committee carried out a first reading of articles 3–7 of the additional international legal instrument against trafficking in women and children.

18. The Ad Hoc Committee decided that, beginning with its fifth session, informal consultation meetings should be organized in order to facilitate the full implementation of its mandate. Those meetings would be held when a number of specific conditions could be met.

19. Revised texts of the draft convention and the draft protocols have been issued, which reflect the progress achieved in their preparation (A/AC.254/4/Rev.4, A/AC.254/4/Add.1/Rev.2, A/AC.254/4/Add.2/Rev.2 and A/AC.254/4/Add.3/Rev.3). The Ad Hoc Committee submitted a progress report on its work at its first and second sessions to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighth session (A/AC.254/13). Reports on its third and fourth sessions have also been issued (A/AC.254/14 and A/AC.254/17).

20. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its eighth session, recommended to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the adoption of three resolutions that are relevant to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, entitled "Draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the draft protocols thereto", "Activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as well as consideration of the need to develop an instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives" and "Action against corruption". The draft resolutions are before the Assembly. In the first resolution, the Assembly would decide to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries in the year 2000 with the objective of finalizing and adopting the convention and the protocols thereto and to opening the convention and the protocols for signature at the Millennium Assembly, and would note with appreciation the offer by the Government of Italy to host the conference of plenipotentiaries in Palermo, Italy.

21. A Symposium for Policy-Makers on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was held in Rome on 26 and 27 February 1999. It was attended by ministers of justice from countries around the world. The main objective of the Symposium was to raise awareness of the need for a global convention against transnational organized crime and of the role of the United Nations in its preparation and subsequent implementation, as well as in promoting political commitment for its adoption. The Symposium was organized jointly by the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. It was hosted by the Senate of Italy.

22. An Asia-Pacific ministerial seminar on building capacities for fighting transnational organized crime is to be held in Bangkok on 27 and 28 October 1999, to be organized jointly by the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the Government of Thailand. The seminar will aim to promote the political commitment of countries of the region to fight transnational organized crime by sensitizing and raising awareness among political leaders

and senior officials on the matter; to promote active participation and input of all countries in the drafting of the convention; to facilitate a process of consultation among the political leadership of the countries of the region on common strategies and mutual cooperation, thus promoting regional strategies and input; to provide a forum for high-level experts of the region to address technical issues and exchange views; and to initiate a review of national capacities to deal with transnational organized crime, including the need for technical support, and identification of measures to improve them.

23. The Governments of Austria, Japan, Norway, Poland and the United States of America have made or pledged contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, to cover partially the cost of holding the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee and to support financially some least developed countries in participating in the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee.

V. Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

24. The report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders submitted to the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/1999/6 and Corr.1) summarizes the measures taken in preparing for the Congress, to be held in Vienna from 10 to 17 April 2000, hosted by the Government of Austria. The Commission also had before it the reports of four regional preparatory meetings.

25. Pursuant to resolution 53/110, the Commission prepared a preliminary draft of the Vienna declaration on crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century and recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it decide to transmit the preliminary draft to the Tenth Congress. A major focus of the preliminary draft of the Vienna declaration is tackling the challenges of transnational crime.

26. The Commission also recommended, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly the adoption, at its forty-fourth session, of a draft resolution on the Tenth Congress. By adopting the draft resolution, which is before the Assembly, it would, *inter alia*, approve the draft programme of work for the Tenth Congress, reiterate its invitation to Member States to be represented at the Tenth Congress at the highest political level; decide that the high-level segment of the Tenth Congress should be held on 14 and 15 April 2000; decide that the Tenth Congress should devote particular attention to ways and means of making operational the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and request the Tenth Congress to submit its declaration, through the Commission and the Economic and Social Council, to the Millennium Assembly.

27. The Centre is currently advancing substantive preparations for the Congress, finalizing the organizational arrangements in close consultation with the host country authorities and working closely with concerned Secretariat entities, especially the Department of Public Information, and other institutions on relevant aspects of the Congress. A guide to the Congress has been prepared (A/CONF.187/GUIDE.1) containing information for Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as the professional community to assist in preparing for it.

VI. Technical cooperation

28. As described in the report of the Executive Director on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention (E/CN.15/1999/2), in order to achieve greater effectiveness, the technical cooperation activities of the Centre are being re-oriented and focused increasingly on pressing priority areas, while comprehensive projects are being formulated and implemented in a fully coordinated manner. The Centre is guided in its new approach by the following considerations: (a) translating into concrete measures at the field level the priorities of the Centre; (b) focusing its assistance on developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with a subregional approach, wherever feasible; (c) cooperating closely at the operational level with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as appropriate, while still keeping distinct profiles, allowing for a more comprehensive approach in dealing with issues such as organized crime, money-laundering, drug control and support to the criminal justice system; and (d) reinforcing inter-agency cooperation.

29. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1999/23 on the work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme adopted on the recommendation of the Commission, called upon the Centre to reinforce its efforts to focus its technical cooperation activities on priority issues and concerns in crime prevention and criminal justice, urged States and funding agencies to review their funding policies for development assistance and

to include a crime prevention and criminal justice component in such assistance, and called upon States to make every effort to contribute to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund.

30. The new orientation of the Centre in its technical cooperation activities is manifested through its global programmes against corruption and trafficking in human beings and the global studies on transnational organized crime, which were launched in March 1999 in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. A brief overview of those programmes is provided below (for a detailed description, see document E/CN.15/1999/2). At its eighth session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice considered the programmes and provided guidance on their implementation.

31. The global programme against corruption, which seeks to assist Member States in their efforts to curb corruption, consists of two main elements, a research component and a technical cooperation component. The research component will establish the knowledge base for formulating and implementing technical cooperation measures. The technical cooperation component will assist Member States to build and/or strengthen their institutional capacity for preventing, detecting and fighting corruption nationally and internationally. At the national level, it will provide assistance in assessing measures against corruption, drafting or revising legislation, establishing or strengthening anti-corruption bodies, developing preventive measures and training policy makers and officials. At the international level, it will seek to create a pool of high-level international experts, establish mechanisms for the transparency of public contracts and for international anti-corruption accountability through assessments of international experts, promote international legal instruments and establish an international forum on corruption and bribery. The programme has been developed taking fully into account already existing international activities and in close consultation with organizations active in the field, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the International Chamber of Commerce, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and Transparency International.

32. Steps are currently being taken to formulate and implement project components of the programme in Guatemala, Hungary, Lebanon and South Africa. Consultations are under way with officials of a number of countries regarding project formulation as part of the programme.

33. In June 1999, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Hungary, the Centre and the United Nations Interregional Criminal Research Institute regarding the launching of a joint pilot project against corruption, developed in the framework of the global programme. The pilot project envisages the following main activities: (a) a scientific expert meeting to identify the methodology and tools for rapid assessment in the field of corruption; (b) rapid assessment and comprehensive analysis of the corruption situation in the country; (c) a joint evaluation of the findings of the rapid assessment; (d) an international seminar to review the results of the analysis and to share the applicable methodological tools with other interested countries; and (e) testing the global programme's mechanisms for the transparency of public contracts. The scientific expert meeting was held in Budapest on 8 and 9 June 1999. The experience gained through the pilot project will be applied, as relevant, to other projects of the global programme.

34. In Lebanon, the Centre is reorienting an ongoing project on support for the national anti-corruption plan in order to align it fully with the global programme. In Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala and South Africa, pursuant to the respective Governments' expression of interest to participate in the programme, the Centre has carried out consultations and is currently engaged in developing project proposals for implementation in those countries.

35. The global programme against trafficking in human beings is aimed at enabling countries of origin, transit and destination to develop joint strategies and practical action against that criminal undertaking. It will facilitate the efforts of donor and recipient countries to address a shared problem to their mutual benefit in a manner that transcends a purely bilateral approach and will bring into focus the involvement of criminal groups in trafficking in human beings and promote the development of effective criminal justice-related responses. The programme includes the collection and analysis of data, the implementation of demonstration projects in interested countries and, in its final stage, the formulation of a global strategy against trafficking in human beings.

36. The Centre is setting up several pilot technical cooperation projects that form part of the programme, which are currently at different stages of development and implementation. Activities carried out under a pilot project in the Philippines included a mission by two expert teams in July 1999. Under the project, the involvement of organized crime in the trafficking in human beings is being assessed and the main routes and patterns of trafficking from and to the Philippines are being identified. The project will

lead to the development or harmonization of relevant legal instruments and to improved coordination among the concerned institutions and, based on an analysis of the institutional capacity to respond to that form of crime, will contribute to the development of a national strategy and elements of a subregional strategy against trafficking in human beings. Project activities include the establishment of an interministerial coordinating mechanism, a data bank on trafficking in human beings at the Philippines Centre for Transnational Crime and a training seminar for prosecutors and police officers on investigation strategies for trafficking cases.

37. Another pilot project is being organized in the European context, to be co-funded by the European Union, on inter-agency coalitions against trafficking in human beings. The project will address two levels of action for harmonizing law enforcement, criminal justice and social welfare responses to trafficking in human beings in a number of countries: (a) cooperation among the relevant national agencies in the Czech Republic and Poland; and (b) inter-country cooperation among the relevant agencies of Austria, the Czech Republic, Finland, the Netherlands and Poland. It is planned to conduct an initial assessment of the level of cooperation between the police, immigration and border control and prosecution, as well as the cooperation of those agencies with specialized non-governmental organizations, victim assistance groups, health agencies and municipal agencies responsible for social security and social housing. Based on its results, the project will assist the agencies in the development of protocols for local and international coalitions against trafficking in human beings. Those protocols could serve as a blueprint for other protocols of cooperation for such arrangements at the subregional or regional level.

38. The main objective of the global studies on transnational organized crime is to assess the major and emerging groups involved in transnational organized crime according to their level of dangerousness and to determine the scope of the various illegal markets within which they operate. The degree of dangerousness will be assessed through a multidimensional approach based on, *inter alia*, criminality, organizational structure, economic and political resources and influence, sophistication and the use of violence. The results of the global studies will contribute to the expansion the Centre's central repository on transnational organized crime, which has been mandated by the General Assembly and which is presently included in the Internet-based United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network.

39. To obtain the pertinent information, the Centre is currently finalizing a transnational organized crime assessment survey, which will be used to develop descriptive narratives based on both quantitative and qualitative information on the characteristics of the top 10 organized crime groups based in 12 selected countries and one region. Initially, the survey will be pilot tested in those countries on the most prominent organized crime group. The pilot study will test the usefulness of the assessment instrument as a tool for collecting information on criminal groups. It is planned to hold an expert group meeting during the fourth quarter of 1999 to review the survey with a view to improving its structure and usability.

40. The data and information collected will be incorporated into the Centre's ongoing central repository on transnational organized crime accessible via the World Wide Web. The project will focus not on the identity of criminals but on the analysis of strategies, trends, dynamics and structures of the major transnational crime syndicates. It will be accompanied by a project to be undertaken by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. The primary aim of the latter project will be a global report on organized crime, to be published every two years, which will provide qualitative and quantitative information on trends in organized crime activities and structures of groups operating at the international level; types and distribution of illicit markets; major international initiatives; and developments in national legislation against organized crime.

41. The global studies on organized crime will be supplemented through several regional projects. For example, the Centre is currently designing a project to assess and analyse the threat posed by Nigerian organized crime groups with criminal networks in the region of the Economic Community of West African States and outside it and to identify countermeasures to prevent and combat organized crime in the region. The initial phase of that project will consist of assessing Nigerian criminal groups, the illegal markets in which they are involved and the trafficking routes along which they operate within and outside the region. The analysis will include a ranking of the groups according to their level of dangerousness, the identification and mapping of their transnational dimensions in and outside the region and an evaluation of their trends in the region. Another project that is currently in preparation aims at the establishment of a database on organized crime in the Russian Federation and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

42. The Centre also continued to assist several countries in dealing with crime and justice issues where it possesses a comparative advantage. Its related activities during 1998

are described in the report of the Executive Director (E/CN.15/1999/2). During the first half of 1999, it supported country projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Table 1 contains further details on the projects. As can be noted from the table, the projects address such issues as organized crime, corruption, financial crime, juvenile justice and violence against women. The cumulative budget for the projects amounts to $5 million. Of this amount, around $2.5 million is provided by the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund and the balance is provided by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and UNDP.

43. During 1999, the Centre formulated new projects covering the Caribbean region, on prison reform, and for the following countries: Senegal, on urban crime prevention; the Russian Federation, on establishing a database and assessment of organized crime; Guatemala, on developing a multi-sectoral programme of crime prevention and drug control jointly with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme; and South Africa, on organized crime, corruption, money-laundering and proliferation of firearms. Implementation of those projects depends on funding by interested donors.

44. In pursuit of its increased field orientation, the presence of the Centre's staff at the country and subregional levels has been expanded. Regional offices of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, with Centre staff, have been established in Pretoria for southern Africa and in Tashkent for central Asia. An office for the Russian Federation is being set up in Moscow. This joint field presence with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme enhances operational synergy between the two component entities of the Office. The Centre also has a project office in Lebanon.

VII. Resource mobilization

45. Table 2 lists contributions and pledges made to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund during 1999, as at 20 August. Information on contributions made during 1998 is contained in the report of the Executive Director (E/CN.15/1999/2).

46. As shown in table 2, contributions and pledges made during the first half of 1999 total $2,404,890. This indicates a continuation of an upward trend in contributions, from $274,715 in 1996 to $2,166,326 in 1997 and $2,733,014 in 1998. Notwithstanding this positive development, the large discrepancy between the mandates of the Centre and the resources required to implement them remains. The proportion of contributions for special purposes remains high, which severely restricts the flexibility of the Centre and its ability to create the necessary infrastructure for the identification, formulation and backstopping of technical cooperation projects.

47. The Governments of France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Sweden have given tangible human resource support to the Centre by placing associate experts in the Centre. In addition, the Governments of Austria and France have provided the services of cost-free experts, whose services are being phased out pursuant to relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on gratis personnel.

Table 1
Technical cooperation projects supported by the Centre for International Crime Prevention during 1999, as at 20 August 1999

Country	*Project*	*Total budget (United States dollars)*	*Role of the Centre*
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Preparatory assistance for strengthening criminal assistance	85 000	Cooperating agency
Lebanon	Strengthening the legislative and institutional capacity for juvenile justice	840 000	Funding and executing agency
	Support for the national anti-corruption plan	273 460	Funding and executing agency
Romania	Institution-building and strengthening of corruption control capacity	440 000	Funding and cooperating agency
Russian Federation	Control and prevention of drugs and related organized crime	1 418 941	Cooperating agency
South Africa	Mechanisms to counteract violence against women	660 000	Funding and cooperating agency
	Preparatory assistance: support to the national crime prevention strategy	558 500	Cooperating agency
	Measures to counteract organized crime and commercial crime	415 840	Funding and cooperating agency
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Establishment of a specialized police unit for financial and economic crime	300 015	Funding and executing agency

Table 2
Contributions and pledges to the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund during 1999, as at 20 August 1999
(United States dollars)

Country or intergovernmental organization	*General purpose*	*Special purpose*	*Total*
Austria	80 000[a]	150 000[b]	230 000
Bolivia	1 000[b]	–	1 000
France	–	479 000[b]	479 000
Iceland	5 200[b]	–	5 200
Italy	133 400[b]	133 400	266 800
Japan	–	300 000[c]	300 000
Republic of Korea	8 000[c]	–	8 000
Slovenia	490[b]	–	490
Thailand	3 000[b]	–	3 000
Tunisia	1 400[b]	–	1 400
Turkey	50 000[b]	–	50 000
United States of America	50 000[b]	875 000[b]	925 000
European Union	–	135 000[b]	135 000
Total	**332 490**	**2 072 400**	**2 404 890**

[a] Paid in part.
[b] Pledged.
[c] Paid.

VIII. Programme questions

48. At its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly will have before it the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, of which section 14 is on crime prevention and criminal justice. The programme was designated a priority area of work by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and 53/207 of 18 December 1998 on programme planning.

49. The Centre began the process of consulting the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the preparation of the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005 by a note submitted to it at its eighth session (E/CN.15/1999/11) containing a preliminary outline of the proposed programme narrative on crime prevention and criminal justice, as a basis for the provision of views by Member States.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 10* (E/1999/30).